

PROTECTION OF INCAPACITATED  
PERSONS ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM DAVIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 16, 2005*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Madame Speaker, today, I rise before this House as a sad Floridian.

Along with millions of Americans, I am hoping and praying for the best for Terri Schiavo and her family.

Fifteen years ago, Terri and her family had so many things in life to look forward to. Never in their wildest dreams would they be able to foresee the tragic events that would raise a conflict so heated that the federal government would reach into their lives and alter their future.

As Terri's family works through their differences in court, one of the few things that could make this terrible situation worse is for Congress to turn this family's case into a political football.

But today, that is exactly what Congress is doing and it is exactly what the Florida Legislature is doing as well.

There are already laws in place dealing with both the guardianship rights granted to spouses under marriage and the terrible end-of-life choices that so many families must make. Since the beginning of our nation, our federal and state constitutions have provided the judicial branch the authority to determine if these laws are being fairly applied.

If the laws governing end-of-life cases needs to be improved, the Florida Legislature and Governor should have an open, honest debate about the issue and how any problems can be fixed for all families who struggle with these tough choices.

The U.S. House Republican Leadership only made the situation worse by refusing to hold hearings and bringing this bill to the floor before my colleagues have even learned who Terri Schiavo, her husband and her family are, let alone the impact of the bill on other families.

In what only can be described as a stunning abuse of power, with little debate and zero respect for families, Congress is about to set a precedent that could strip every spouse of the right to make end-of-life decisions for his or her spouse.

So today, I have to ask my colleagues, "Do YOU think Congress is better suited to make an end-of-life decision for your spouse?"

I've spoken to a lot of my fellow Floridians about this tragic situation, but I don't think any of them have a Living Will in place that states "I want the politicians in Washington or Tallahassee to make decisions for me."

With every fiber of my being, I oppose this legislation. Congress' job is to fix problems with the law for all Americans. If Congress intervenes in this family matter, where will they stop?

Sadly, regardless of what we do today, no one wins. A husband may lose his wife and parents may lose their daughter. My heart and prayers go out to Terri and her family.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the continued reluctance by the Bush Administration to openly deal with the government of Turkey's continued policy of denial of the Armenian Genocide. In the words of scholars and writers, genocide denial is the last stage of genocide, what Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel has called a "double killing." The perpetrators first plan and commit the crime, then refuse to acknowledge responsibility. Finally, their political successors deny this crime against humanity. The present-day Turkish government must stop this shameful policy of denial.

The award-winning writer and Harvard Professor Samantha Power in her recent book on genocide recounted how the United States and the world's other powers have too often been bystanders to Genocide, most recently in Rwanda and as you hear these words, once again in Sudan. Power argued that "The Armenian Genocide of 1915 set the stage for a gruesome 20th century." The international community's failure to properly condemn the attempted annihilation of the Armenians led Hitler to famously declare "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

The Turkish government spends millions of dollars annually to lobby other governments to advance its revisionist cause, claiming that the subject is "sensitive" and that acknowledgment would undermine relations with Turkey. To compound this assault on the truth, Turkish leaders and media accuse U.S. and Israel of genocide, respectively in Iraq and Palestine. These policies are abhorrent and must be confronted.

Mr. Speaker, while President Bush has issued annual statements on April 24, the day of remembrance of the Armenian Genocide, he has refrained from using the proper word. Moreover, as the leadership of the House confirmed last year, the Administration remains opposed to a congressional resolution on the Armenian Genocide due to Turkish objections. This approach sends absolutely the wrong signal to Turkey and to the rest of the world. As we promote relations based upon shared values, the United States must never forget the essential value of facing history directly.

IN HONOR OF MR. CLINT  
EASTWOOD

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Mr. Clint Eastwood, on his recent Oscar awards. His film, Million Dollar Baby, was nominated in six categories, and won four: himself as Best Director, the film as Best Picture, Hilary Swank as Best Actress, and Morgan Freeman as Best Supporting Actor. Any one award would be a testament to Clint's art and the talents of his team, but four awards is an amazing achievement!

This year Clint celebrates a 50-year career in show business. We all know and have enjoyed his work over the years. Each movie seems to build on the last, and they keep getting better.

This year's awards are not his first Oscars. In 1992, Unforgiven took Best Director and Best Picture, and he was nominated for Best Actor in a Leading Role. Here in the 17th District, Clint's most famous role may be his term as Mayor of Carmel, and tourists still come to town hoping for a glimpse of "The Mayor."

Mr. Speaker, today I applaud Clint Eastwood not only for his most recent accomplishments, but also for his life-long dedication to his art. This Nation is richer for his creations. I wish him and his wife Dina all the best in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO PETTY OFFICER  
ANDREA BISIGNANI

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Petty Officer (FSO) Andrea Bisignani.

FS2 Andrea Bisignani, a Food Service Specialist on the Coast Guard Cutter James Rankin, is being honored as the 2005 Baltimore Area Coast Guard Person of the Year.

FS2 Bisignani has consistently demonstrated a high level of performance throughout this past year in her job as a Food Service Specialist. Her untiring efforts and steadfast commitment to her shipmates on the CGC James Rankin has made her a prime candidate for this honor. Those that nominated her for this award cited her leadership and high level of performance as a key factor in the CGC James Rankin being selected for the Dining Faculty of the Year (Afloat-Small category), and also resulted in her selection as Food Service Specialist of the Year.

FS2 Bisignani's accomplishments this year have gone above and beyond the criteria for election of these prestigious honors in the food service rating alone. Her professionalism, dedication, and enthusiasm have had a significant and positive impact on the degree of mission success and high state of morale that exists on board the CGC James Rankin.

FS2 Bisignani has risen to the demands and challenges of the working environment aboard the CGC James Rankin, and has not only excelled tremendously in the food service area, but has also lived up to the high standards, which are expected of every crewmember on board. She has thrived in her demanding role as FSO and has been able to accomplish a great deal because of that.

FS2 Bisignani has volunteered much of her time and energy to the members of the CGC James Rankin. She assists and encourages every member in maintaining a healthy lifestyle; is 100 percent customer focused and concerned for the well-being of all crew members; and has taken on more responsibilities than required in order to ensure everything runs well on the ship. FS2 Bisignani has gone above and beyond in her responsibilities to ensure the members on board the CGC James Rankin are happy and healthy, and her dedication is evident to all that have the privilege to work with her.